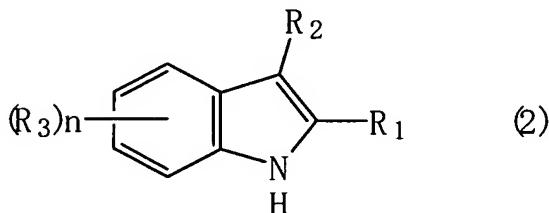


Amendments to the Claims:

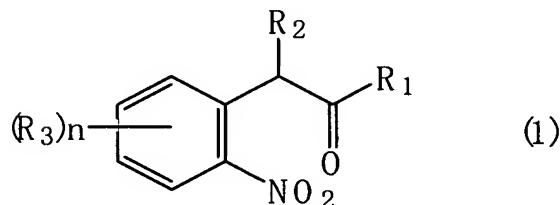
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A process for producing an indole compound of formula (2)



wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a phenyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is an optionally substituted alkyl group, a phenyl group, an alkoxy group, a benzyloxy group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a nitro group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4, characterized by using carbon monoxide when 2-nitrobenzylcarbonyl compound of formula

(1)



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and n have the same meaning as the above, is reduced in the presence of a catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table.

2. (Original) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is a metal catalyst selected from an iron catalyst, a ruthenium catalyst, a palladium catalyst, a cobalt catalyst, a rhodium catalyst, a nickel catalyst and a platinum catalyst.
3. (Original) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is a metal catalyst selected from an iron catalyst, a ruthenium catalyst, a palladium catalyst and a platinum catalyst.
4. (Original) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is an iron or ruthenium complex catalyst in which carbon monoxide is coordinated.
5. (Original) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal of the Periodic Table is a palladium catalyst or platinum catalyst in which phosphine type ligand is coordinated.
6. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 5~~, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4,.

7. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 5~~, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

8. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 5~~, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, R₃ is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

9. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4,.

10. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 3, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4,.

11. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 4, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4,.

12. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 5, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently of each other hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is an optionally substituted alkyl group or a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 to 4.,

13. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

14. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 3, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

15. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 4, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

16. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 5, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, an alkoxy carbonyl group or an acyl group, R₃ is a halogen atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

17. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, R₃ is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

18. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 3, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, R₃ is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

19. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 4, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, R₃ is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.

20. (New) The process for producing an indole compound according to claim 5, wherein R₁ is methyl group, R₂ is hydrogen atom, R₃ is fluorine atom, and n is an integer of 0 or 1.